where said magnetic actuation plate and said one or more anchors are formed of permalloy material; and

a second substrate provided adjacent to said magnetic actuation plate, said second substrate having a nonconductive surface and a second conductive surface,

where said first and second conductive surfaces define at least two switching states, including an open state in which the conductive surfaces are physically separated from each other, and a closed state in which the conductive surfaces physically contact each other,

where said magnetic actuation plate, in the presence of a magnetic field, creates an actuation force that causes the electrically conductive surfaces to switch from one of the switching states to another of the switching states, and

where each relay is connected electrically to at least one corresponding winding and to power; and

a magnetic rotor having at least one pole positioned to induce a magnetic field in each MEMS relay when passing by the relay.

6. (Twice Amended) A DC motor comprising:

a plurality of windings;

at least one microelectronic mechanical system (MEMS) relay connected electrically to at least one of the windings and to power, where each relay includes:

at least one substrate formed from a nonconductive or semiconductive material;

a springing beam etched on the substrate, said springing beam comprising one or more anchors in direct contact with said substrate, where said springing beam and said one or more anchors are formed of permalloy material; and

two electrically conductive elements, one formed on the springing beam, that together define at least two switching states, including an open state in which the conductive elements are physically separated from each other, and a closed state in which the conductive elements physically contact each other;

where the springing beam includes a magnetic material which, in the presence of a magnetic field, creates an actuation force that causes the electrically conductive elements to apply power to or remove power from at least one of the windings by switching from one of the switching states to another of the switching states; and

a magnetic rotor having at least one pole positioned to induce a magnetic field in each MEMS relay when passing by the relay.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claims 1-6 remain pending and under consideration, with claims 1 and 6 being independent. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 6 can be found in the specification and drawings at least at page 13, lines 7-12 and Figs. 4C-4E.

For the reasons set forth at pages 2-7 of the office action mailed March 29, 2001, as supplemented in the Advisory Action mailed June 8, 2001, claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over various combinations of Brailsford (USP 4,475,068), Posey (USP 5,293,523), Bornand (USP 5,605,614), Ho (USP 5,629,918) and Tanikoshi (USP 3,900,780). These rejections and their underlying rationale are traversed.